

Editorial Opinion

Assembly Acts Wisely; Lion's Paw - Take Heed

The Assembly proved last night that it will not be influenced against the best interests of the student body as a whole.

The reorganized student government system is on its way to becoming a truly representative plan without power being concentrated in the hands of a few.

In the interests of a well-organized Elections Commission for the 1959-60 academic year, Assembly members, with the exception of one, disregarded the appointment of an outsider and placed the commission leadership in the hands of an experienced student.

Student government is under close observation as to whether or not it will be an improvement on the old system. Through the action the Assembly took last night, it has disregarded the influence formerly wielded by a group of students—Lion's Paw—who are now discovering that their influence is ebbing away.

Some members of Lion's Paw made it obvious last night that they were not concerned with capable leadership and that they had only their group interest in mind.

It is rather disconcerting to see that after a year of relatively good student government as was evidenced last year, this group has again come to the fore in an obvious manner.

The Assembly members who are still in the process of learning the fundamentals of student government received an important lesson last night—that of good judgment in selecting a person who they feel is most qualified for a job regardless of their own personal interests.

Lion's Paw should also take it upon themselves to learn, to learn to think as individuals when they are considering matters that pertain to the student body, to learn as the Assembly members are learning, that student government must be improved in the interests of the University as a whole, and lastly, to learn that they, like the Assembly, are also new and must proceed with caution and good taste in mind.

Lion's Paw recognizes outstanding men who have contributed in some way to the University's groups. If this group is to reflect this characteristic of "outstanding", it has a lot to learn. Last year's group proved that it could be outstanding, and if this group cannot follow along their lines—student government may suffer.

This will only happen if the Assembly does not follow the pattern it set last night. It is up to the Assembly to continue its good work and prove the virtues of the reorganization plan and this can also be applied to Lion's Paw.

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Letters

Battle Rages Over Coed

TO THE EDITOR: In reference to the letter addressed to me that appeared in the Collegian I have the following comments to make to the author or authors:

1. The discussion of a sensible course of action to take in the case of Sunday's disturbance would have been of value. It is reasonable to believe that five or six girls are able to keep one man under control.

2. If one considers the extent of population of the upper stories of the girls' dorms, an attempted beating or rape is far less likely to occur there than in the lower and very often unpopulated portions of the dorms.

3. It is indeed unfortunate that people who are considered to be adults by one part of the University are not considered to be so by another part. As a result of this we see boundaries and restricted areas erected.

Freedom of entrance and passage would probably be less disturbing than some people apparently believe. Given the privilege to assume the responsibilities of an adult, it is not likely that the privilege would be abused by the majority of students.

4. I note that you apparently requested the Collegian to withhold your name from publication. If you believed that what you had to say was really worth saying, then you should certainly not fear standing behind your name.

A letter of refutation written in semi-anonymity is hardly of very much worth.

—Matthew Hillsman '61

TO THE EDITOR: It was with interest that I read the kind letter of Matthew J. Hillsman to the editor concerning the "smuggling episode."

Perhaps it never occurred to Mr. Hillsman to mention the fact that he has been dating said coed. I would like to know what morals Mr. Hillsman has to think that having a man in the bedroom of a woman's dorm produces a situation that "may not be as grave as it appears to be."

But, then again, one's faith in morals is restored when, in the next paragraph, he contradicts himself and refers to the "gravity of the situation."

Furthermore, the coed whose behavior was questionable was NOT reported simply to have destroyed her "good name" She was reported for the following reasons:

1. Most obvious is the fact that men are at no time allowed in a coed's bedroom

2. It is morally and ethically wrong.

3. Parents of coeds do not seem to go in for the type of community living where men are in women's rooms day and night

4. One pays money for room and board in a GIRLS dormitory, expecting that privacy.

5. If a coed knowingly breaks such an obvious rule as this, she should expect to be under jurisdiction of University rulings.

Lastly, I think it is positively ridiculous for any person to have to justify Mr. Hillsman or anyone else, the reasons for the turning in of a coed who has violated an age-old rule of the University which is obviously so morally, socially and ethically right.

—A Freshman Coed

TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Name Withheld:

Granted the Penn State coed is subject to beatings, stealing and rape, she is also subject to earthquakes, falling meteors and being run over by stampeding herds of Great White Woolly Wugga-Wuggas, not to mention the Lower Armenian Flying Gizzappi Threat.

I think, Name Withheld, that if you take the time to realize we are not in a jungle, but in a rather highly civilized community, the thought of one man sallying forth into a building filled with over a thousand neither sickly nor defenseless females for the purpose of rape begins to border on the absurd. I'm afraid the days of the "One Last Sabre Charge" are long gone.

My recommendation, Name Withheld, is a reduction of your True Confessions and Cinema diet and a heavy dose of old fashioned reality.

—Daniel Leshock, '61

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibber



"I figger, at least, I shouda had a 'C-Minus' outa this course. I had perfect attendance."

Letters

Reader Cites Lack of Justice

TO THE EDITOR: State College "justice" has hit a new low. On Wednesday I acted as a witness to what I consider to be one of the biggest farces of justice I have ever seen.

The case, heard before Justice of the Peace William P. Bell, involved two Sunday afternoon parties at the Metzger Building.

Although the parties were held in different apartments on different floors, both cases were heard together. Testimony of the police officers, I feel, was mostly irrelevant and concerned the past parties and "reputation" of the building.

Officers Benner and Daly testified that singing has been heard in Calder Alley, and so they investigated further.

In spite of my testimony that no singing came from the apartment in question, the fine was still levied. The highlight of this testimony, of course, was Officer Daly's vocal rendition from "Wimoweh," as he said he heard it that day.

Perhaps the most ridiculous remarks were perpetrated by the justice of the peace himself.

For instance, after I testified that our party was a quiet one, Bell said, "I've been to a few cocktail parties myself; I've never been to a quiet one in my life."

He admitted that this doesn't mean there can't be quiet beer parties, but we wonder when we will see police raids of the non-quiet beer parties.

In handing down a decision, Bell noted that the party was held on Sunday, when he said that Sunday is a day of reverence and that parties be kept quieter.

It is hardly fair to project religious beliefs in this matter.

Justice of the Peace Bell also expressed his belief in the competency of the reports of Borough Police. If such competency exists, then why bother to hold "court?"

—Robert A. Thompson '59

TO THE EDITOR: In reply to the letter from Mr. Thompson, I would first like to comment that I have no objection to his letter being printed.

Students of the University should be not be denied the right to criticize anyone or anything; this is a basic American right and the preservation of this right is one of the highest ideals Americans can possess.

But I would also like to use this right in defending my own stand.

The letter written by Mr. Thompson was one that I would have expected him to write. Testimony presented at

the hearing by the defendants implied they were as innocent as new born babes.

I remarked during the hearing that men living in the Metzger Building had in the past been criticized for keeping women in their apartments overnight.

One of the witnesses then asked, "Since when is that a crime?" I replied that that is not a crime, but it does show a new low in moral activities of students. Nevertheless, I would like to stress that the past reputation of anyone or anything concerned did not affect my judgment in any way on the case. I based my decision solely on what happened Sunday night.

Today (Thursday) Mr. Martin entered my office to pay his fine. He said to me that he was very sorry for what happened and admitted that I was justified in judging the case as I did.

This action by him made me feel much better. I feel that perhaps my decision, at least in this case, did some good in teaching a human being a lesson for the better.

—William P. Bell, Borough Justice of the Peace

Need Late Library Hours?

TO THE EDITOR: I read the article of May 20 concerning the extension of hours by the library with a certain amount of misgivings.

In it Mr. McComb was reported as stating that there was definitely enough use of the first floor reading rooms of the Pattee Library to justify their being kept open until 11 during the exam period this semester.

I am one of the student assistants who worked during these periods. The total number of students using the rooms during this five day period was 355. Many of these left well before 11.

The total capacity of these rooms is 300 per night. The per night totals ranged from 36 to 94; the counts were made between 10:20 and 10:30.

It seems to this student that demanding that we serve the students is a little unfitting if slightly better than a 10th of the capacity of these rooms was actually used.

In your article it was not clearly stated that these rooms will be open exclusively for studying—there will be no books charged out after 10. It was my experience last semester that a few students could not take "no" for an answer.

If the library is to remain open for these extra hours, the students should take advantage of the opportunity, and accept the rules as they are stated. The student assistants have exams too.

—Diran Dermen, '59

